

MINUTES
OPC SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2016

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order in Room 206 of Town Hall at 8:12 am.

Present were First Selectman Jayme Stevenson, Board of Education Chairman Michael Harman, Board of Finance Chairman Jon Zagrodzky, Vice-Chairman of Planning & Zoning Commission Steve Olvany and State Representative Terrie Wood. Town Administrator Kate Buch was also in attendance.

First Selectman

After a Public Hearing on October 17, 2016 the Board of Selectmen voted on several changes to the town parking regulations and increased parking permit and daily parking fees. The changes go into effect on January 1, 2017 and Mrs. Stevenson suggested a press release be sent out to reiterate the changes going into effect.

A water emergency has been issued by the State Health Department for Greenwich, Stamford, Darien and New Canaan. Director of Health David Knauf is drafting water regulations with some enforcement components in an effort to support Aquarion's water ban.

The public works garage project is moving forward with town board approvals. The project was approved by ABA on Oct. 19, 2016 and goes before ARB and P&Z next week.

The drainage project at Abbey & Intervale is progressing slowly due to some unexpected complications. Neighbors' concerns are being addressed; including having a police presence on Halloween to protect children navigating around equipment while trick-or-treating.

Other items discussed include: Darien achieving a second moratorium; the planning of an upcoming Road Safety Study on November 10, 2016 and a proposal by the State Department of Health to consolidate health departments. The consolidation of local health departments would mean a significant change to the convenience of services our residents presently experience and a financial increase to taxpayers. Finally, Mrs. Stevenson mentioned an ad campaign the Community Fund will be unveiling on November 1, 2016 which focuses on binge drinking.

State Representative

Mrs. Wood noted that Darien's second moratorium application went through the State approval process much more quickly than in the past. She also briefly mentioned continued regionalization efforts.

Board of Finance

Mr. Zagrodzky continues his work on the Town's 5-year plan. The Director of Finance Jenn Charneski has been helpful in supplying him with data. Hopefully the data requested from the BOE will be submitted in time to complete a comprehensive 5-year plan. Budget work will begin soon and the BOF will continue to collaborate with town groups to keep the process transparent and efficient.

Mr. Zagrodzky commented that he feels the group of individuals selected to be on the Public Works Garage Building Committee will work well together towards a successful, completed project.

Planning & Zoning

The Planning & Zoning Commission announced Jim Rand was selected and sworn in as the new P&Z commissioner. The Commission will consider a regulation change related to lights at DHS; a second application submitted for the Corbin Dr. project and senior housing proposals at Atria and Maplewood. A senior housing development at Parkland was approved for 100 units. Lastly, Shake Shack is expected to open between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Board of Education

The BOE budget process begins on January 5, 2017 with the initial presentation to be followed by an all-day budget meeting on January 7, 2017. Enrollment and facility capacity information continue to be reviewed by BOE members. The Board will have two new members after elections. DHS faces the possibility of reaching its capacity in 2018. Projects discussed were: the DHS cafeteria, a new turf field and field lights.

Mrs. Stevenson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2016 meeting. Terrie Wood so moved, Mike Harman seconded and the minutes were approved with all in favor with the exception of Steve Olvany who abstained. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary